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SEGA

THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!

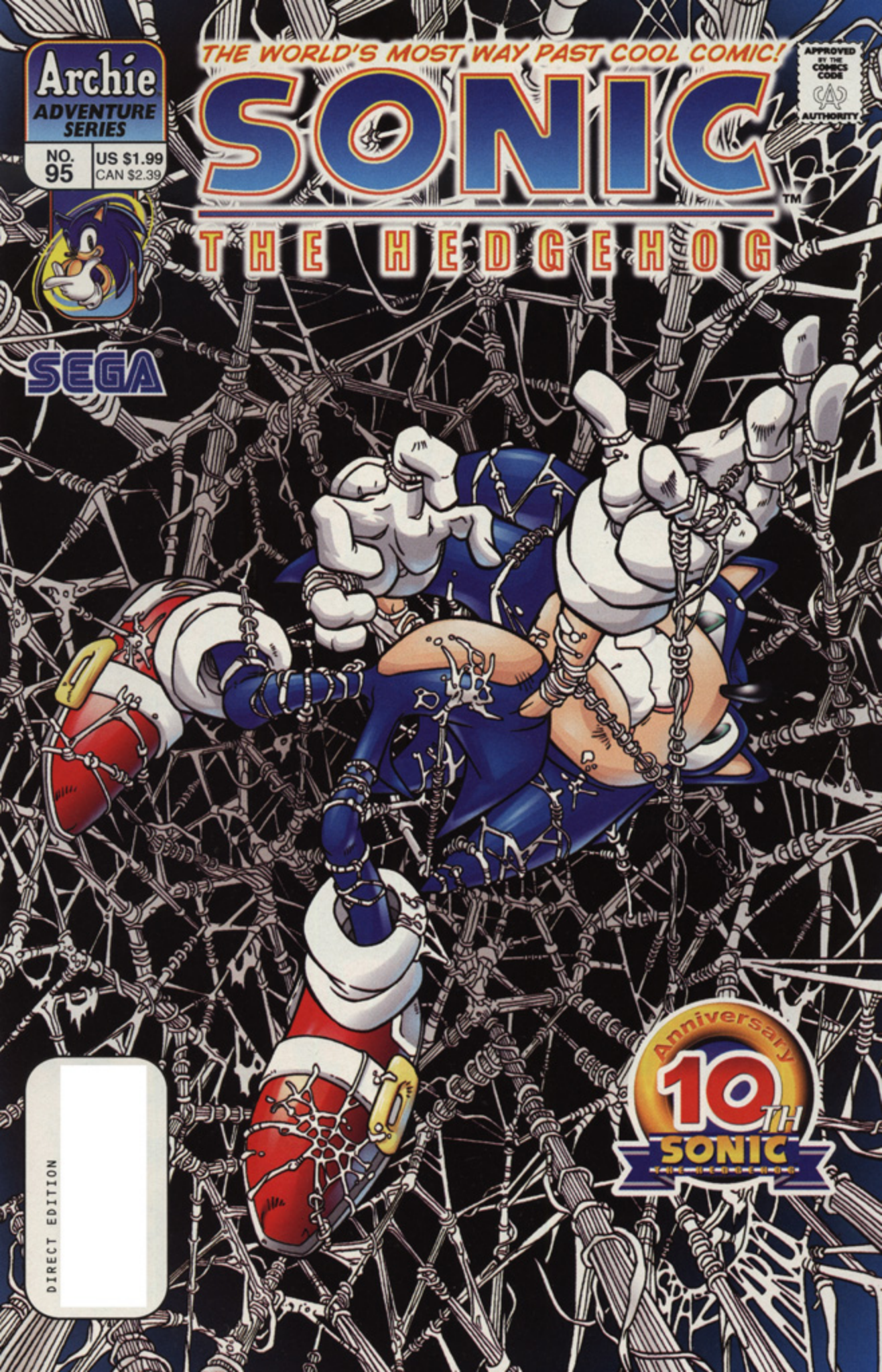
SONIC

THE HEDGEHOG

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE



TM

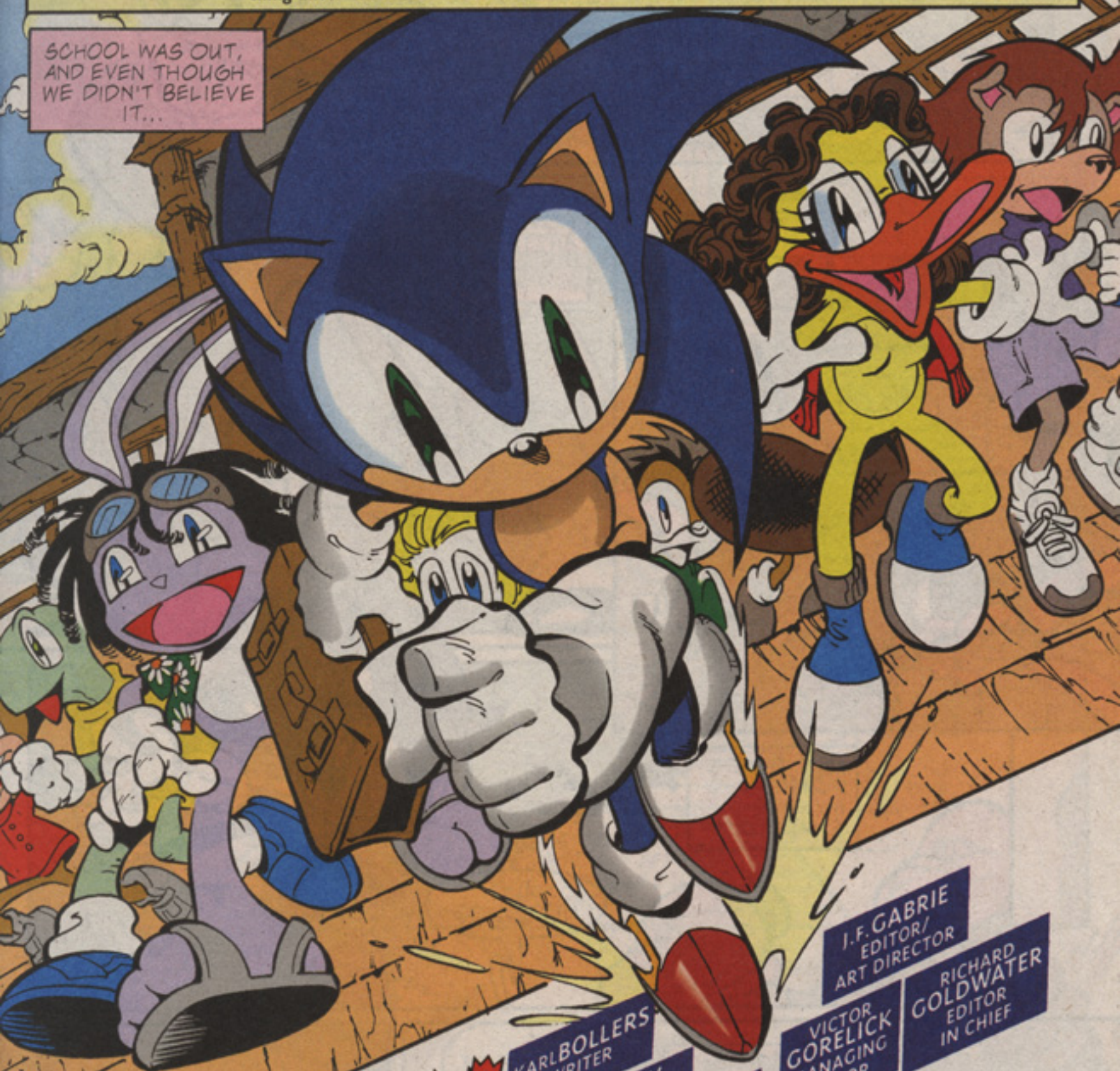


DIRECT EDITION



After ten long years, the iron-fisted rule of DOCTOR ROBOTNIK over planet MOBIUS was believed to have finally ended! With the technological tyrant vanquished and his polluted factories shut down, order and beauty were restored to the city of MOBOTROPOLIS. Now the villain has returned to wreak havoc once more, but there are many who are willing to stand against him in the fight for freedom. The bravest among them is a brash, blue streak who just happens to be the fastest thing alive! ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!

SCHOOL WAS OUT,
AND EVEN THOUGH
WE DIDN'T BELIEVE
IT...



KARL BOLLERS
WRITER

FRY
PENCILS

PAMEKLUND
&
JIMAMASH
INKERS

JEFF POWELL
LETTERER

FRANK GAGLIARDO
COLORIST

J.F. GABRIE
EDITOR/
ART DIRECTOR

VICTOR
GORELICK
MANAGING
EDITOR

RICHARD
GOLDWATER
EDITOR
IN CHIEF

ENEMY MINE

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WE'D SOMEHOW
MANAGED TO
SURVIVE DAY ONE.

BUT AFTER FACING DOWN
ROBOTNIK FOR THE PAST
TEN YEARS...

HOW COULD
ANYTHING ELSE
EVER MEASURE
UP?

NOT THAT I
DIDN'T HAVE
MY FAIR
SHARE OF--

HALT,
HEDGEHOG!

--PROBLEMS.

STATE
YOUR BUSINESS,
BOY!

I'M HERE TO
SEE PRINCESS
SALLY.

WELL, THEN
SCHEDULE AN
APPOINTMENT.

SHE IS
ROYALTY, YOU
KNOW!

GEOFFREY
ST. JOHN
RANKED
HIGH ON MY
LIST OF 'EM...



...BUT THE EGGMAN STILL HELD THE TOP-SPOT.

WHA?! I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

WHADDYA KNOW, BRO? YOU CALLED IT!

THAT CURFEW-BREAKER WAS MY IRASCIBLE NEPHEW!



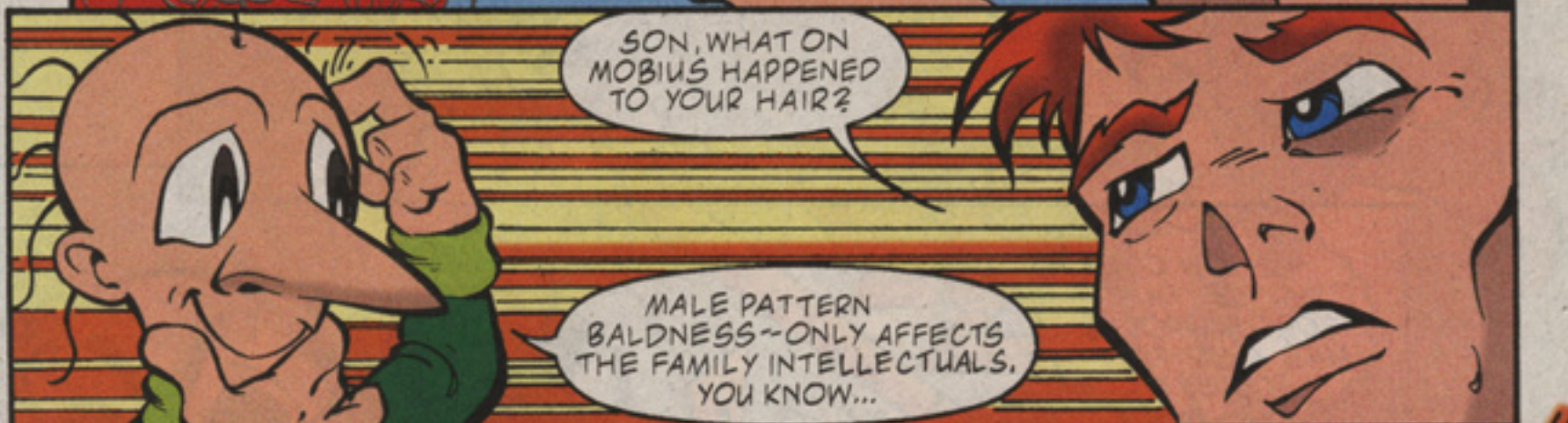
SNIVELY! IT'S BEEN OVER TEN YEARS, SON! HOW'VE YOU BEEN?

AS WELL AS CAN BE EXPECTED, FATHER!



THIS IS LADY AGNES MY MOTHER-IN-LAW, AND YOUR STEPSISTER--

I KNOW. HOPE. UNCLE JULIAN HAS ALREADY BRIEFED ME.



SON, WHAT ON MOBIUS HAPPENED TO YOUR HAIR?

MALE PATTERN BALDNESS~ONLY AFFECTS THE FAMILY INTELLECTUALS, YOU KNOW...



A FEW BLOCKS AWAY...

EEEEEEK!



RRAARRGHH! THE SWORD~WHERE IS IT?! LOST ITS SCENT!!

BIO-DESIGNATE:
CARNIVORE/UNKNOWN
--DESIST AND
SURRENDER.

RAARGH?



RAAARGH!

KODOS.

CALLING ALL
PROTECTOR-BOTS
WITHIN GRID-
SECTION R-37--



-- SHOW OUR
"VISITOR THAT
ROBOTROPOLIS
HAS A NO-FUR
POLICY!



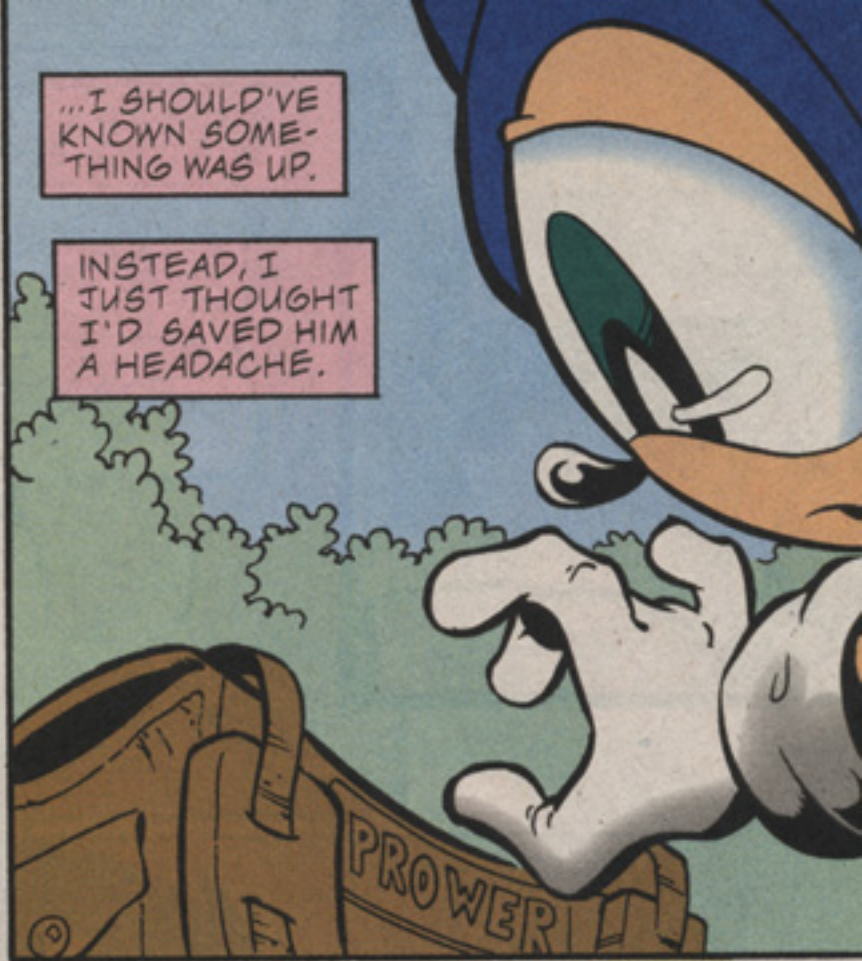
IT
FLED THE
CITY!

HOORAY
FOR LORD
JULIAN!



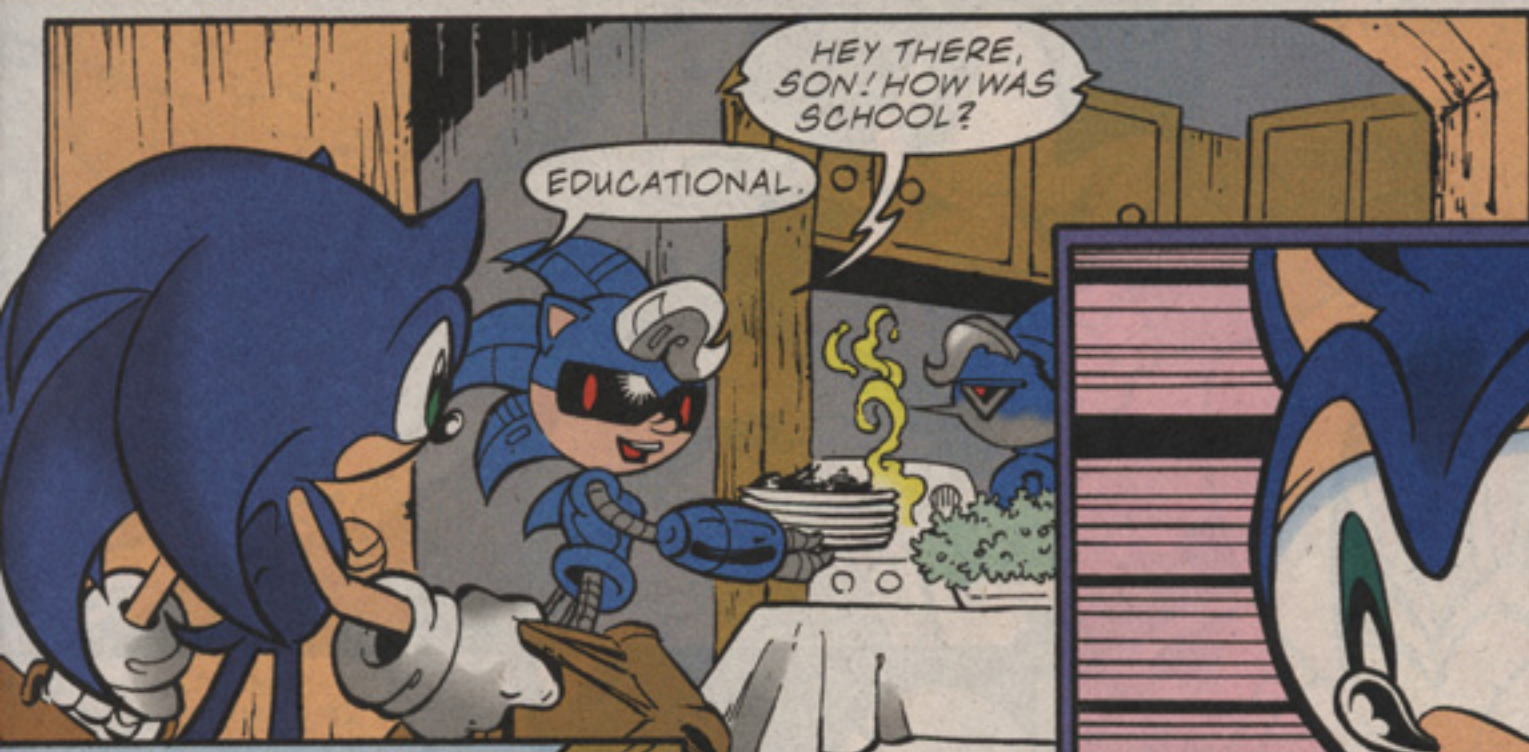


LOOKING BACK, WHEN I FOUND TAILS' BOOKBAG AND NO SIGN O' TAILS...



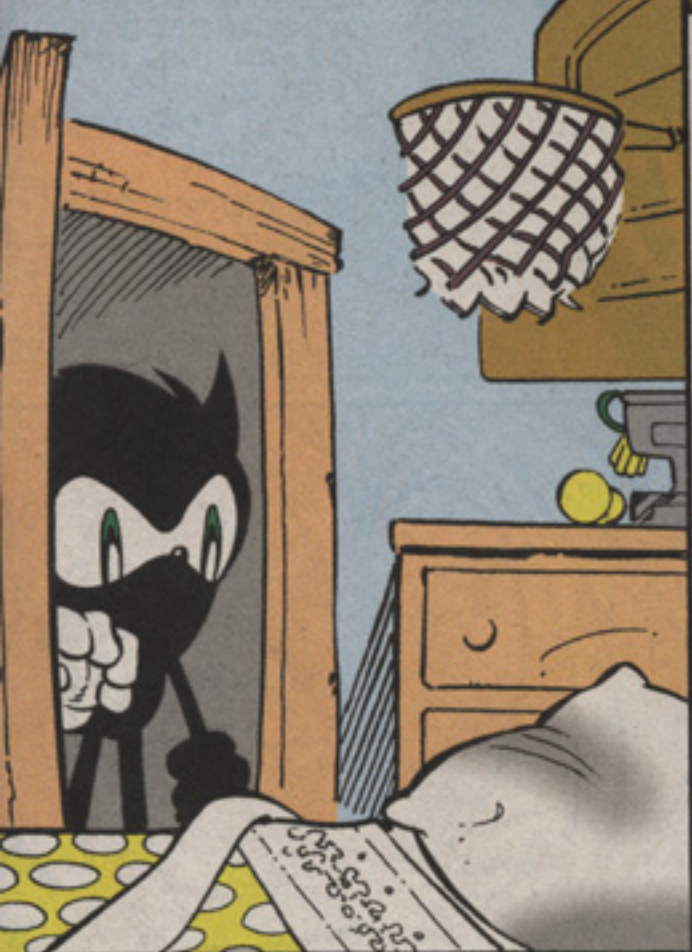
...I SHOULD'VE KNOWN SOMETHING WAS UP.

INSTEAD, I JUST THOUGHT I'D SAVED HIM A HEADACHE.



EDUCATIONAL.

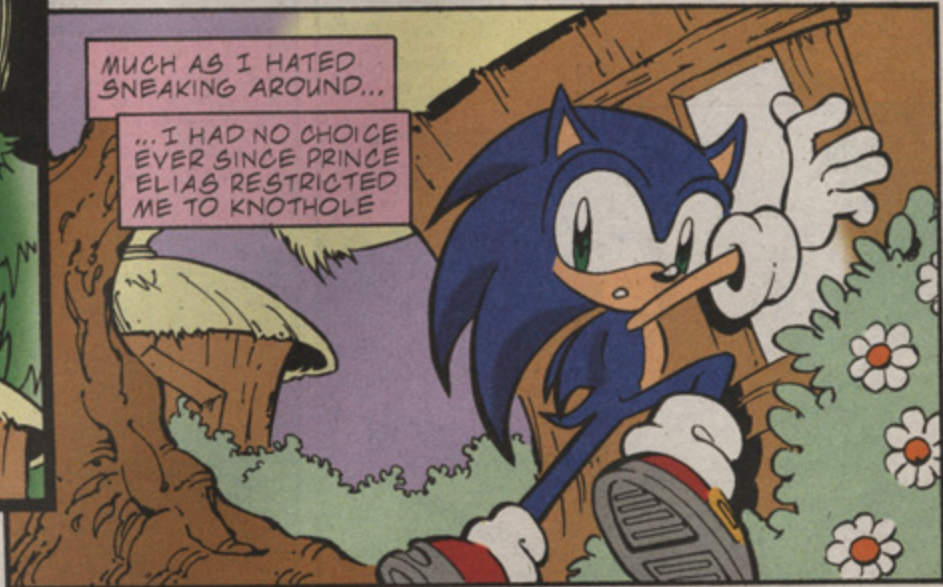
HEY THERE, SON! HOW WAS SCHOOL?



I REALLY LEARNED SOMETHING NEW TODAY...

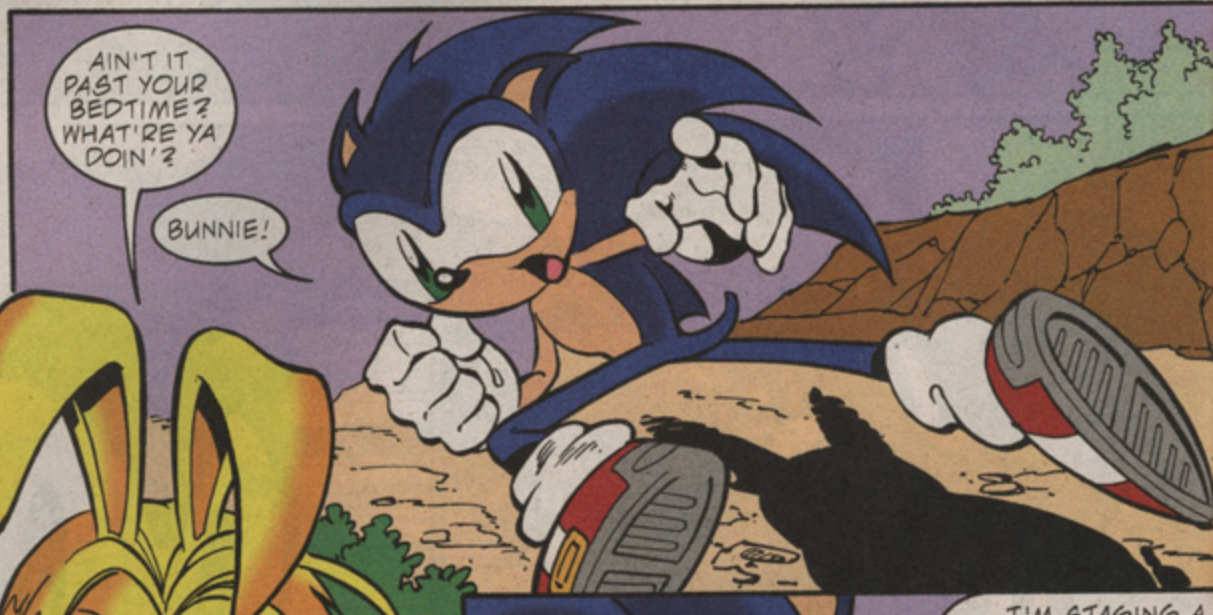


...AND THE NIGHT WAS STILL YOUNG...



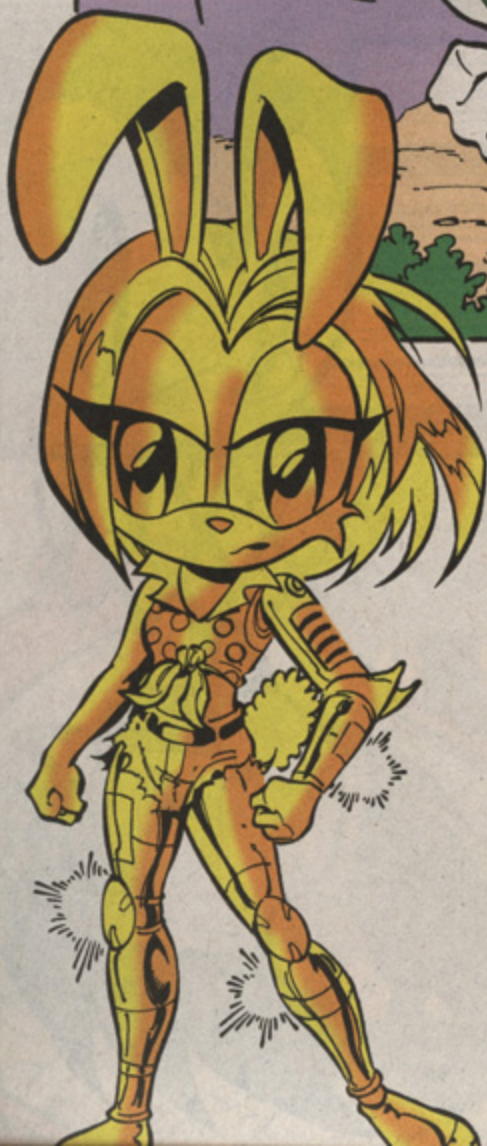
MUCH AS I HATED SNEAKING AROUND...

...I HAD NO CHOICE EVER SINCE PRINCE ELIAS RESTRICTED ME TO KNOTHOLE



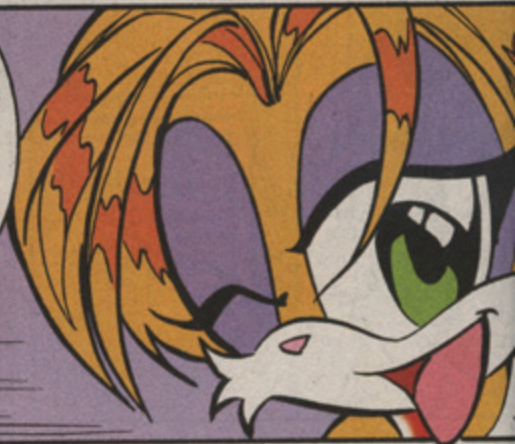
AIN'T IT PAST YOUR BEDTIME? WHAT'RE YA DOIN'?

BUNNIE!

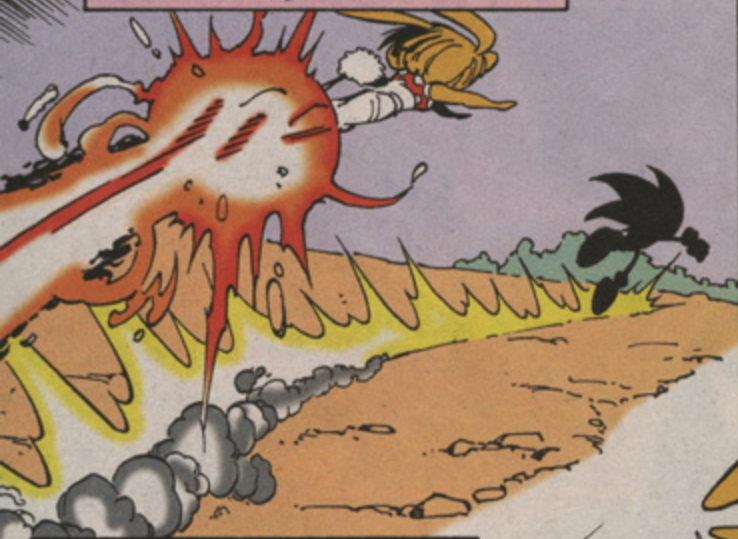


I'M STAGING A RESCUE MISSION TO SAVE THOSE OVERLANDERS WHO CRASH-LANDED FROM ROBOTNIK OR HE'LL ROBOTICIZE 'EM!

THAT'S DOWNRIGHT KUH-RAYZEE, SUGAH! 'NUFF TO WARRANT YA SOME SERIOUS BACK-UP-- WELL, HERE AH AM!

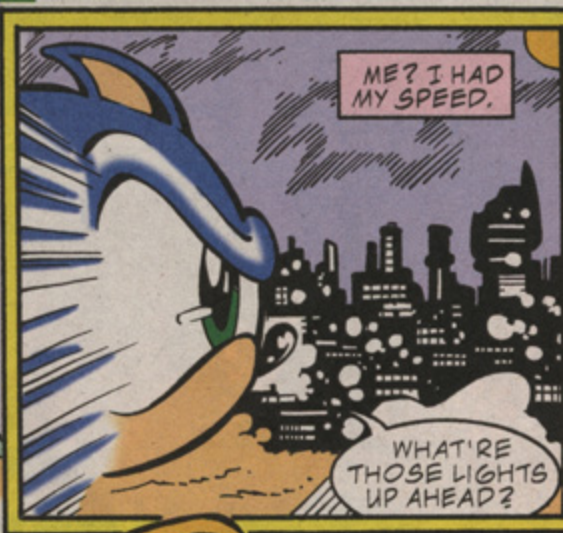


I HAD NO BEEF--BUNNIE COULD
HANDLE HERSELF. SHE WAS
PRETTY MUCH BIONIC, NO THANKS
TO "BUTT"NIK.



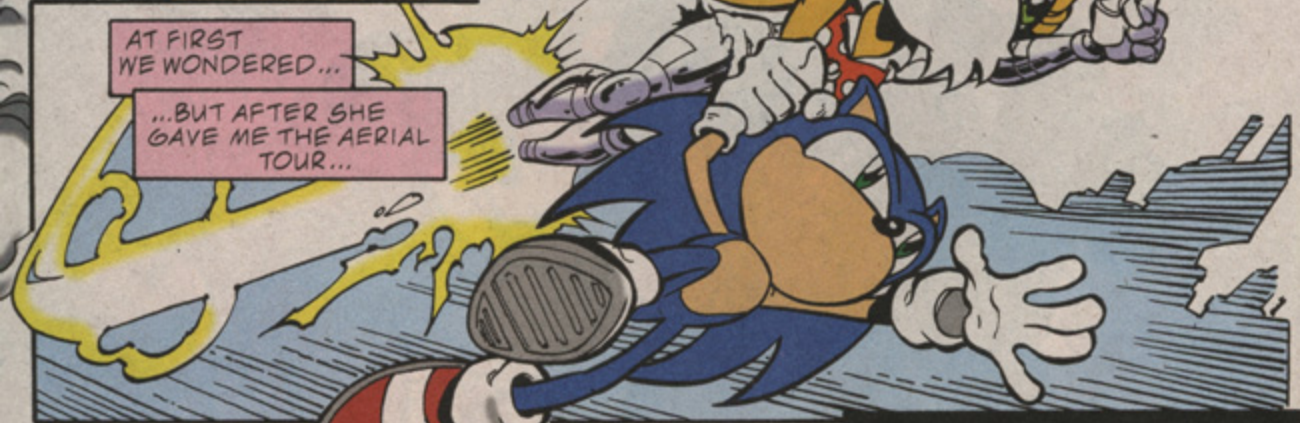
ME? I HAD
MY SPEED.

WHAT'RE
THOSE LIGHTS
UP AHEAD?



AT FIRST
WE WONDERED...

...BUT AFTER SHE
GAVE ME THE AERIAL
TOUR...

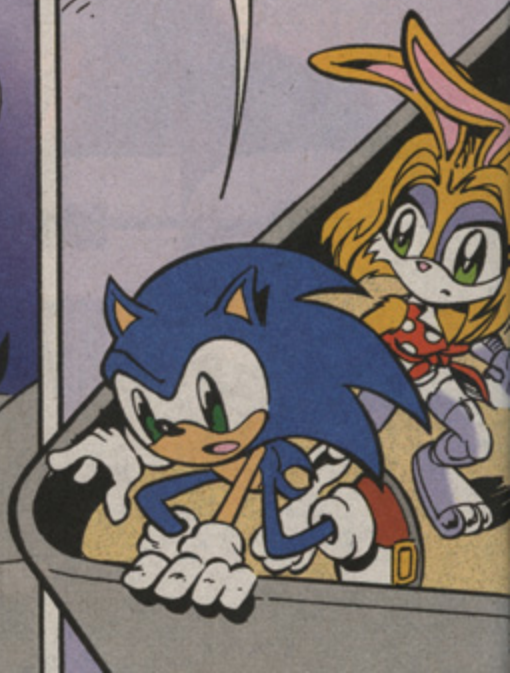


...WE BOTH KNEW WHAT
WAS UP, THOUGH IT DIDN'T
COMPUTE.



OVAHLANDUHS'RE
ALL UP IN HERE--REAL
COZY-LIKE, TOO.

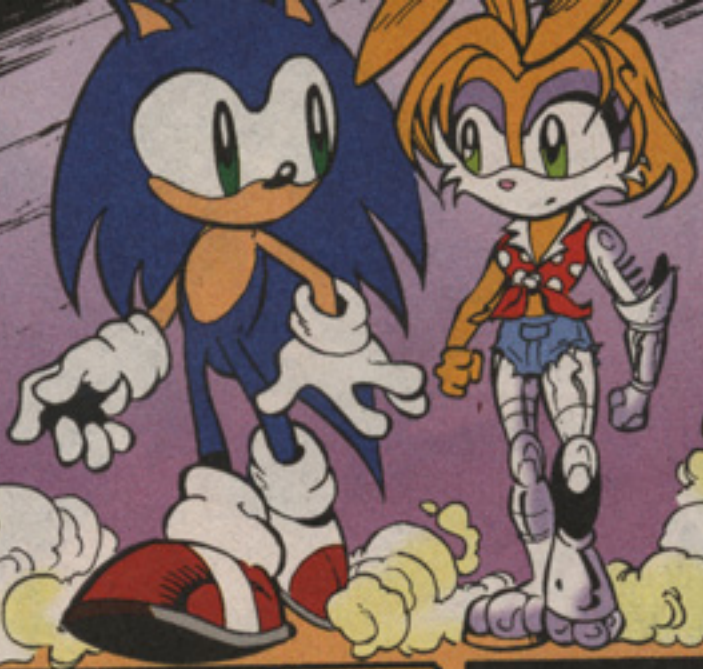
WHY HAVEN'T
THEY BEEN TURNED
INTO ROBOT-
SLAVES?



BUNNIE THOUGHT
THE DOC HAD GONE
SOFT.

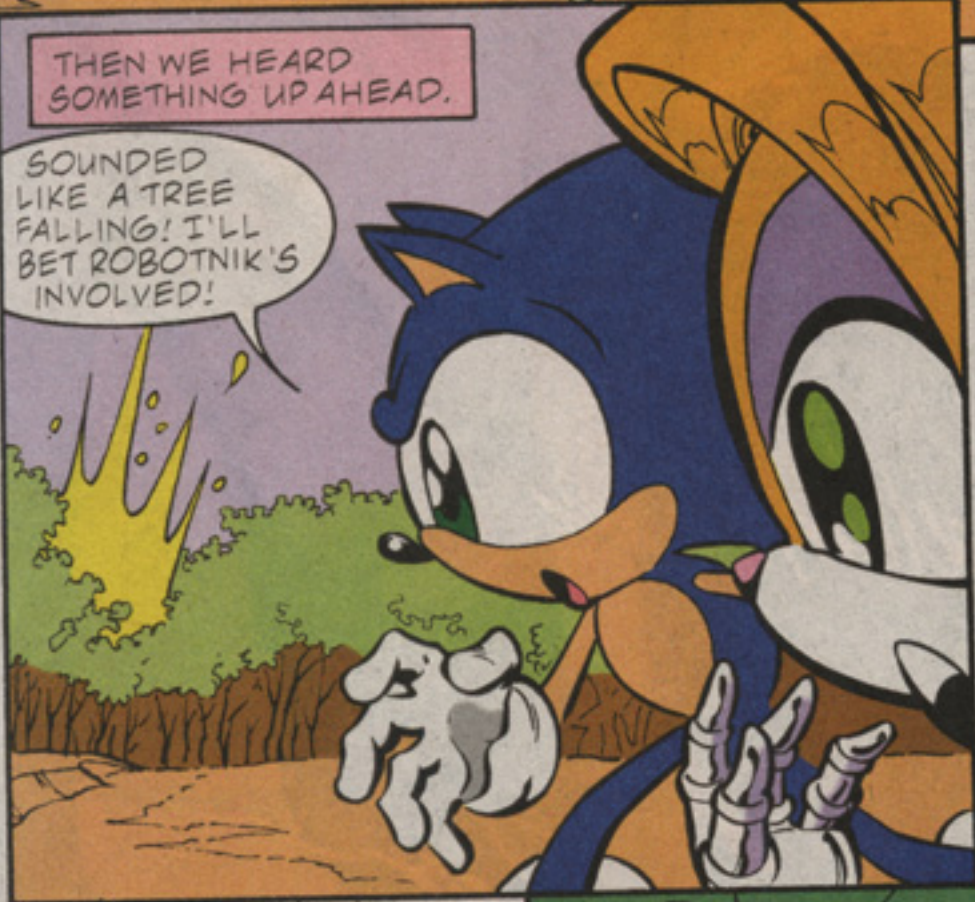
YEAH, AND
SALLY'S GONNA
START DATTIN'
GEOFFREY.

NO
CALL FER
SASS.



THEN WE HEARD
SOMETHING UP AHEAD.

SOUNDED
LIKE A TREE
FALLING! I'LL
BET ROBOTNIK'S
INVOLVED!



BOY, YOU
SURE HATE 'IM,
HUH?

DON'T GET
ME STARTED.



BUT I WAS
WAY OFF BASE.



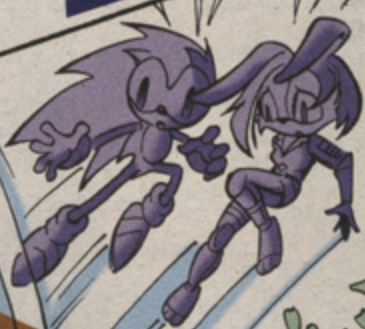


RAAARGHH!
SO-WUUUURD!

ENEMY MINE

PART TWO

WAY OFF.



KODOS AND ARACHNIS ~ EITHER THIS IS SOME NEW KIND OF "TOUGH LOVE", OR THEY'RE TRYING TO WHACK EACH OTHER!

IT DIDN'T MAKE A WHOLE LOTTA SENSE.



THEY'D ALWAYS BEEN
PRETTY TIGHT.

YOU
-YOWWWWWWWW-
REQUESTED MY
PRESENCE,
SIR?

YES... I'M SURE YOU'VE
WONDERED WHY I HAVEN'T
ROBOTICIZED EVERYONE
IN THE CITY YET.

THE THOUGHT
DID CROSS MY MIND...
BEFORE I WENT TO
BED.

WELL, MUSE
NO LONGER!
BEHOLD!

DON'T YOU
AGREE THAT
THIS WILL BE A
FAR MORE
INNOVATIVE
USE FOR OUR
OVERLY EXTENDED
FAMILY?

IT'S GENIUS, SIR...
SIMPLY GENIUS.

THERE
THERE... I KNOW
I KNOW.



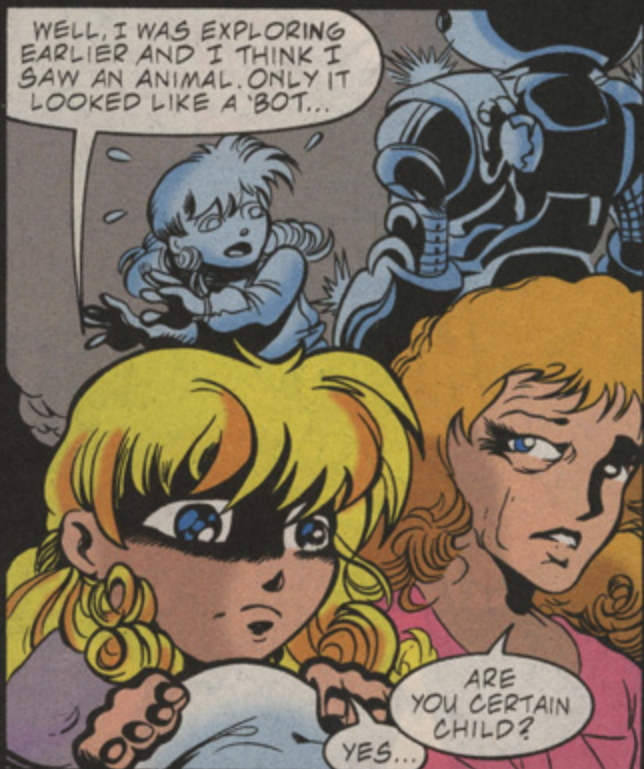
GRANMA?

HOPE,
WHAT'S
WRONG?



I'M
FRIGHTENED...

OF WHAT,
SWEETHEART?



WELL, I WAS EXPLORING
EARLIER AND I THINK I
SAW AN ANIMAL. ONLY IT
LOOKED LIKE A 'BOT...

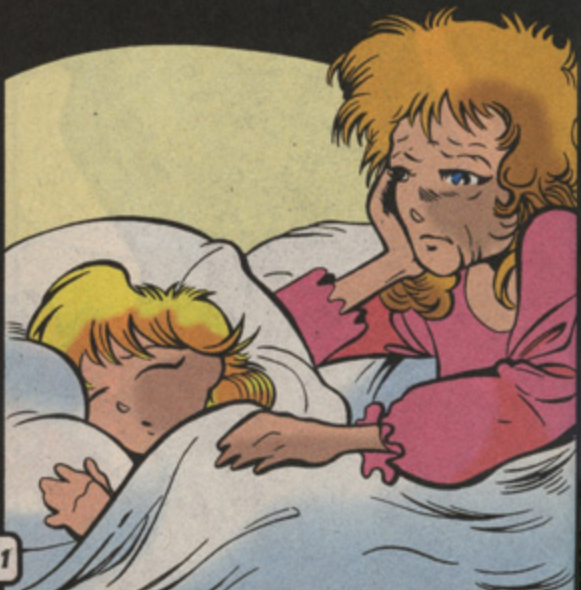
ARE
YOU CERTAIN
CHILD?

YES...



DON'T WORRY, JUST
GET SOME REST. I'M SURE
YOUR UNCLE JULIAN HAS
AN EXPLANATION.

HE
HAS
TO.



COULDN'T BLAME ARACHNIS
FOR BEING ON THE OUTS WITH
KODOS. SURE, HE WAS ALWAYS
A BIT OF A PSYCHO...

...BUT NOW HE HAD
TURNED INTO A
TOTAL NUT-JOB.

RAAARR--!

AH I'M NO DOCTUH,
BUT AH THINK THIS
ONE'S FLOWN OVAH
THE CUCKOO'S
NES--

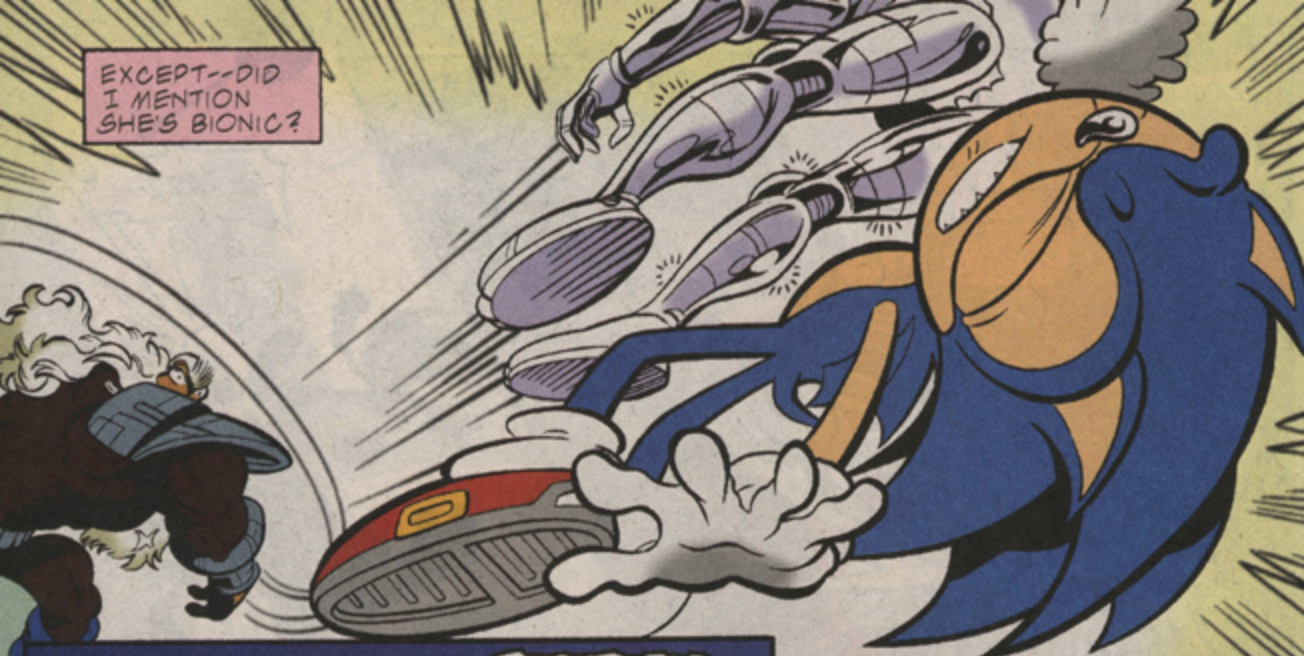
--WHA?!

FLOWN, BUT NOT TOO FAR--
HE PRETENDED TO BE OUT
COLD SO AS TO GET THE
JUMP ON BUNNIE.

RAAARGHH!

IT WAS LIKE
SEEING KING
MAX ALL OVER
AGAIN.

EXCEPT--DID
I MENTION
SHE'S BIONIC?



SO-WHUUURD?



THAT'S IT. BACK
TO KNOTHOLE. I'LL
HANDLE THIS.



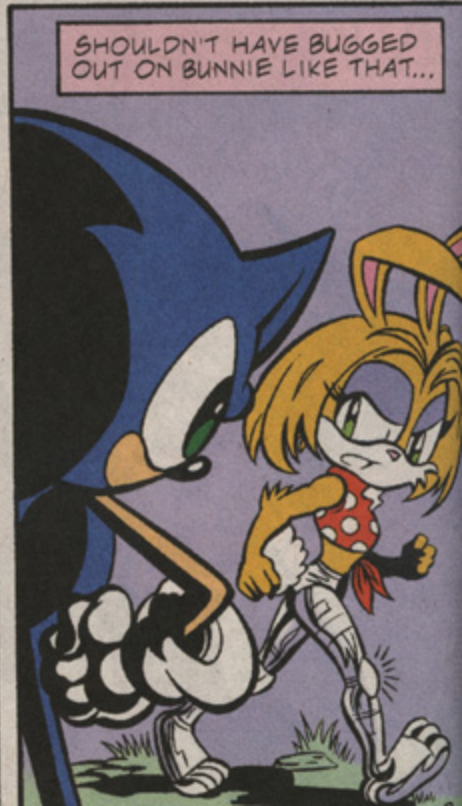
NO WAY,
MACHO-HOG!



GO!



SHOULDN'T HAVE BUGGED
OUT ON BUNNIE LIKE THAT...



...BUT THIS TIME, KODOS
WAS WAAAY UNPREDICTABLE.
IT'LL TAKE SPEED TO BEAT
'IM.

WOULD IT
BE ENOUGH,
THOUGH?

I KNELT TO EXAMINE
SOME OF ARACHNIS'
LEFTOVER SILK--SHE'D
BEEN THERE RECENTLY.

KODOS WAS
OBVIOUSLY
AFTER HER,
BUT WHY?

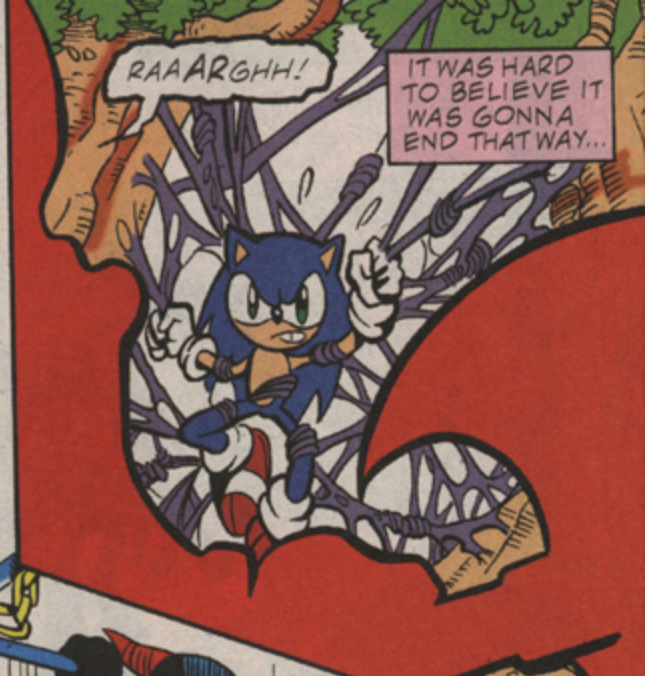
DUH! EXCEPT
IT'S AN AXE, DUDE,
BUT THANKS FOR
THE--

RAAARGHH!
SO-WUUUURD!



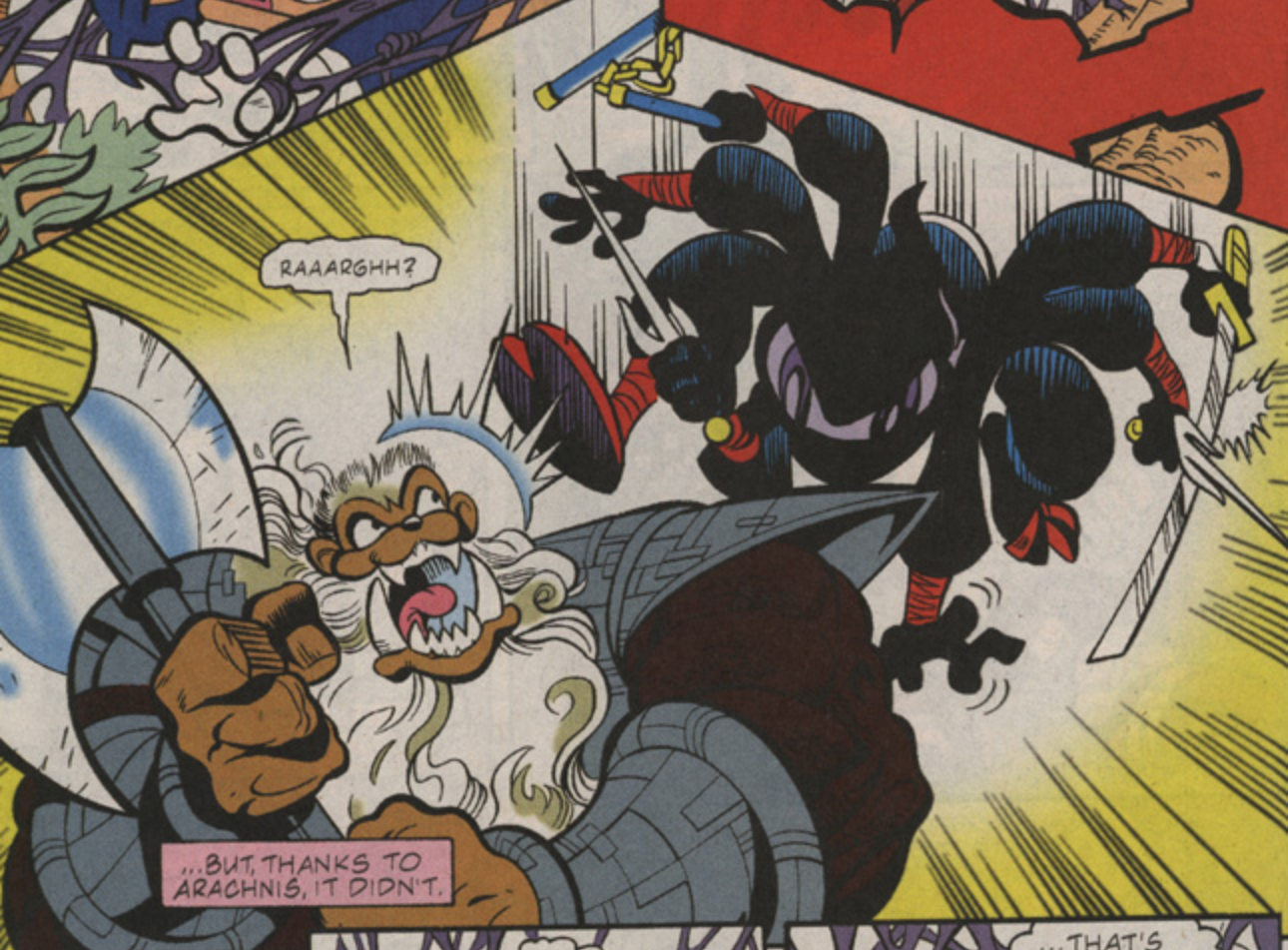
BUT I'D SPOKEN
TOO SOON.

WHAT
THE--?!



RAAARGHH!

IT WAS HARD
TO BELIEVE IT
WAS GONNA
END THAT WAY...



RAAARGHH?

...BUT, THANKS TO
ARACHNIS, IT DIDN'T.

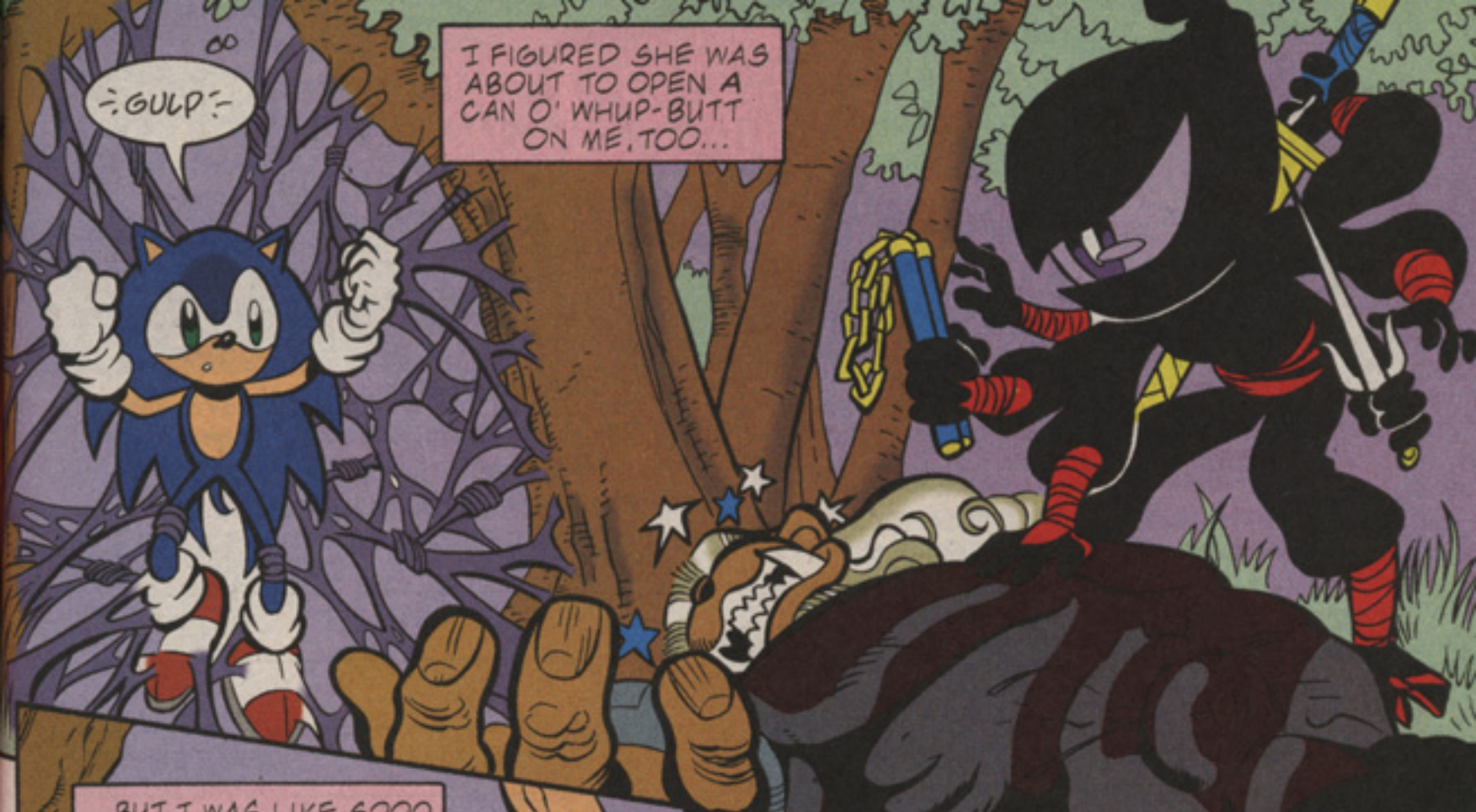


OH,
MAN...

...THAT'S
GOTTA HURT!

POW
BIFF
CHUD

WHAK
SMACK
KLOK

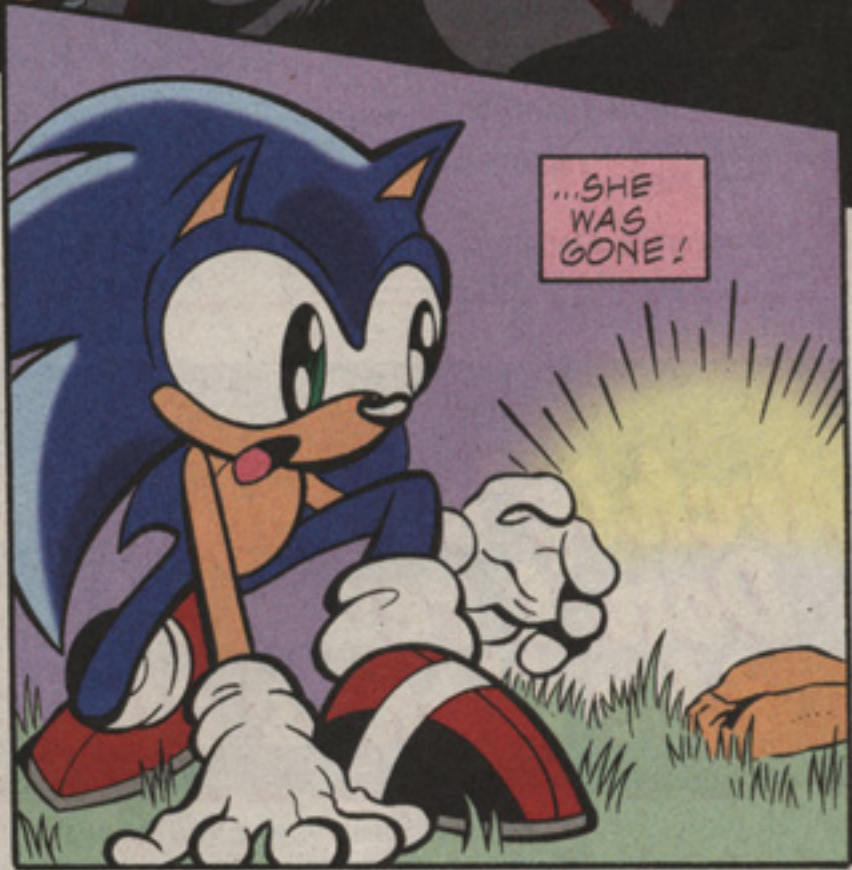


I FIGURED SHE WAS ABOUT TO OPEN A CAN O' WHUP-BUTT ON ME, TOO...

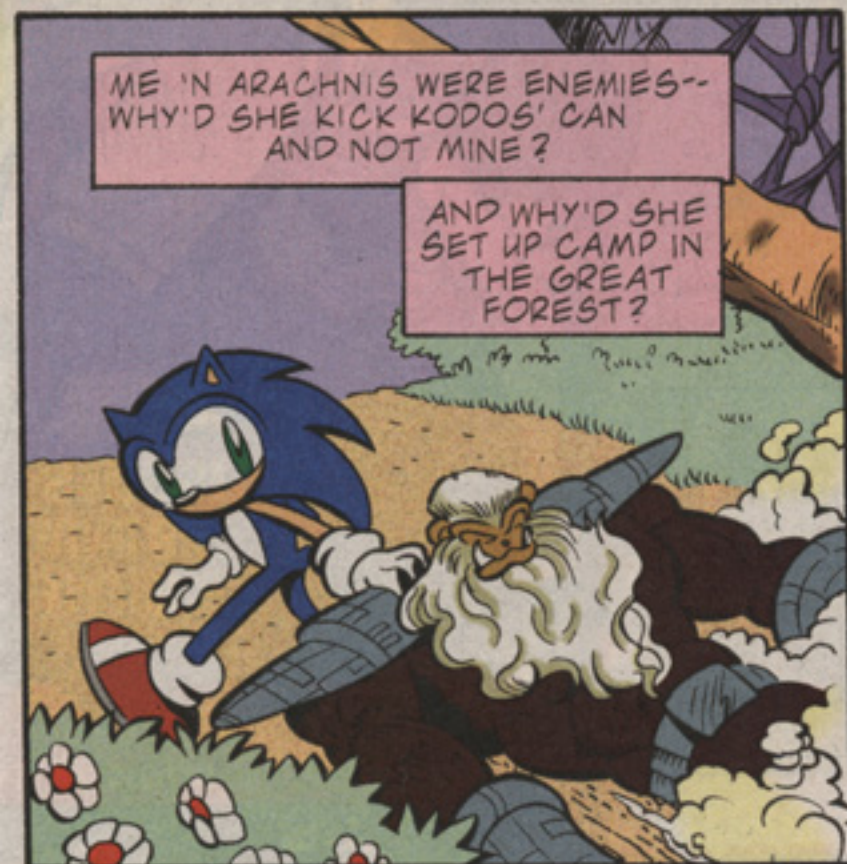
:-GULP:-



...BUT I WAS, LIKE, SOOO WRONG, AND BEFORE I COULD THANK 'ER...

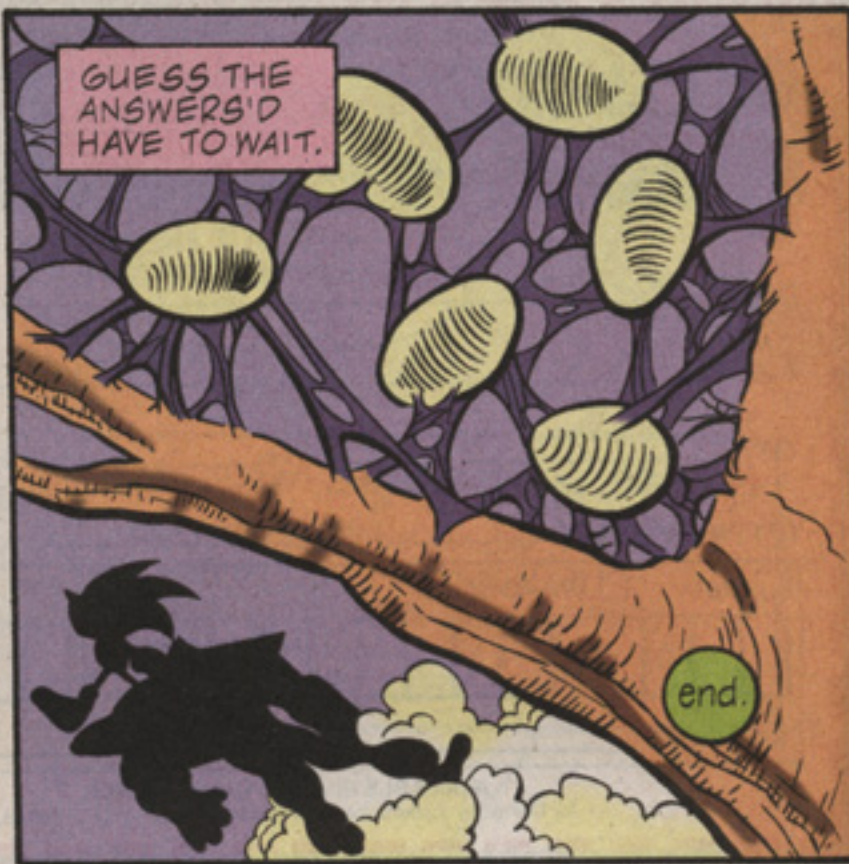


...SHE WAS GONE!



ME 'N ARACHNIS WERE ENEMIES-- WHY'D SHE KICK KODOS' CAN AND NOT MINE?

AND WHY'D SHE SET UP CAMP IN THE GREAT FOREST?



GUESS THE ANSWERS'D HAVE TO WAIT.

end.

Born to the most noble of Echidna houses, the latest to continue the family heritage and responsibility as Guardian of The Floating Island, defender of all against the forces of evil from the world beyond as well as those who would threaten from within!

ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!

ON A LONELY MOUNTAINTOP ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD, WE FIND

KNUCKLES™

WONDERING WHAT HE HAS DONE TO DESERVE THIS--

HAVING SUFFERED THE LOSS OF HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS, HE HAS EVOLVED INTO SOMETHING--DIFFERENT--

--AND NOW FEELS AS IF HE IS GOING INTO OVERLOAD...

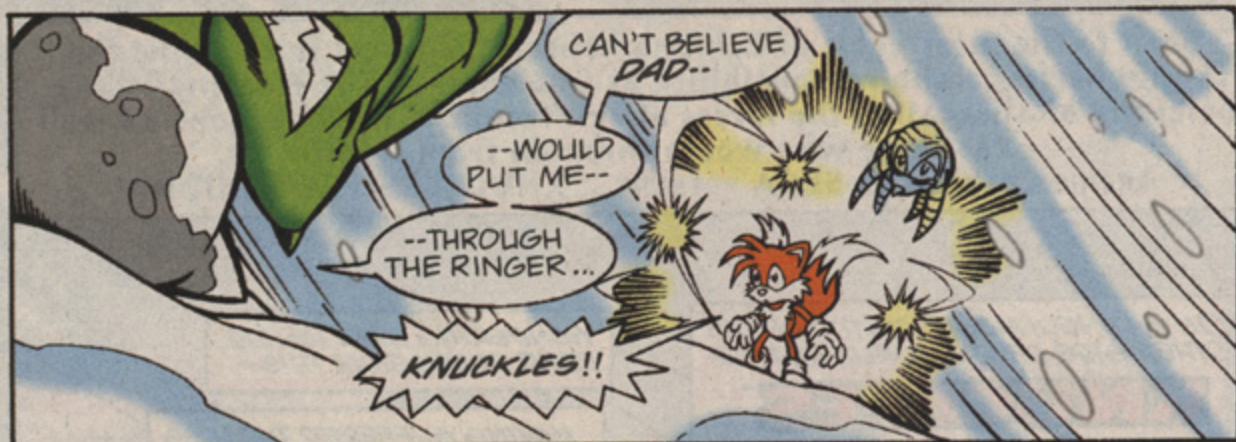
MY INSIDES!!!

TEARING ME APART--!!

WISH I KNEW--
WHAT'S HAPPENING
TO ME-- !!!

WHEN
DESTINY
CALLS!

Another Sega-Inspired Story By
KEN PENDERS (Writer & Inker)
RON LIM (Penciller)
VICKIE WILLIAMS (Letterer)
FRANK GAGLIARDO (Colorist)
JUSTIN GABRIE (Editor)



BEFORE THE YOUNG FOX CAN REACT, THE PAIN-WRACKED ECHIDNA UNLEASHES A TIDAL WAVE OF RAW ENERGY FROM WITHIN HIS VERY BEING...

DON'T
WORRY,
CHILD!

I'LL
PROTECT
YOU!

AARRRGH
HH
HH!

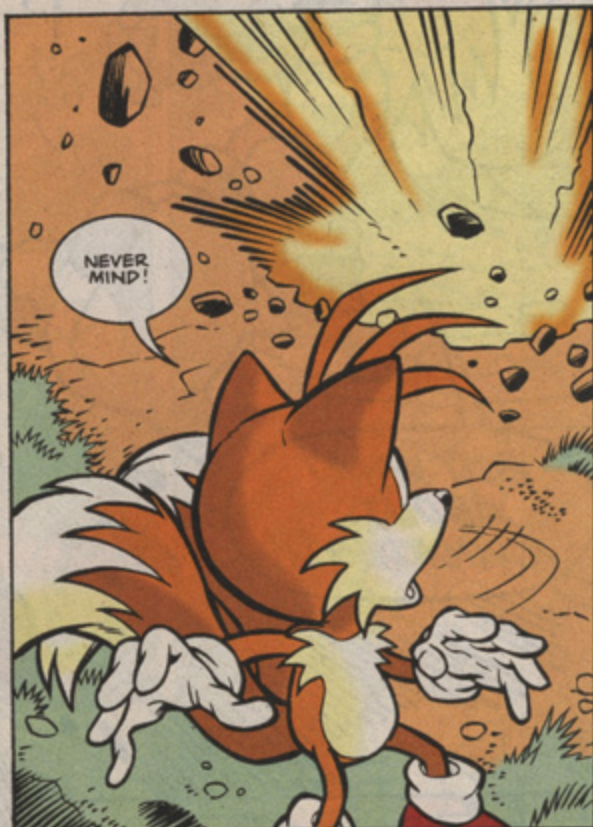
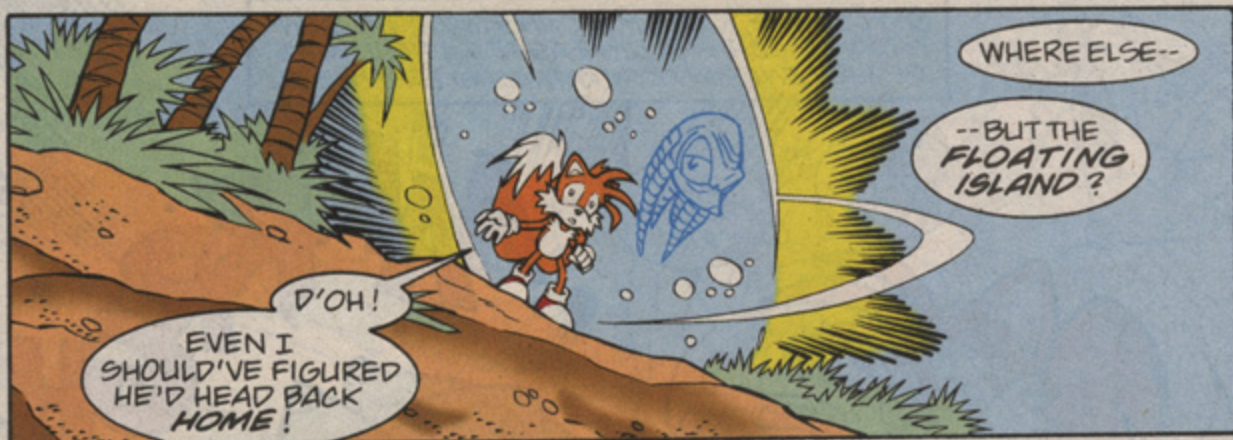
BUT WHAT
ABOUT
KNUCKLES?!!

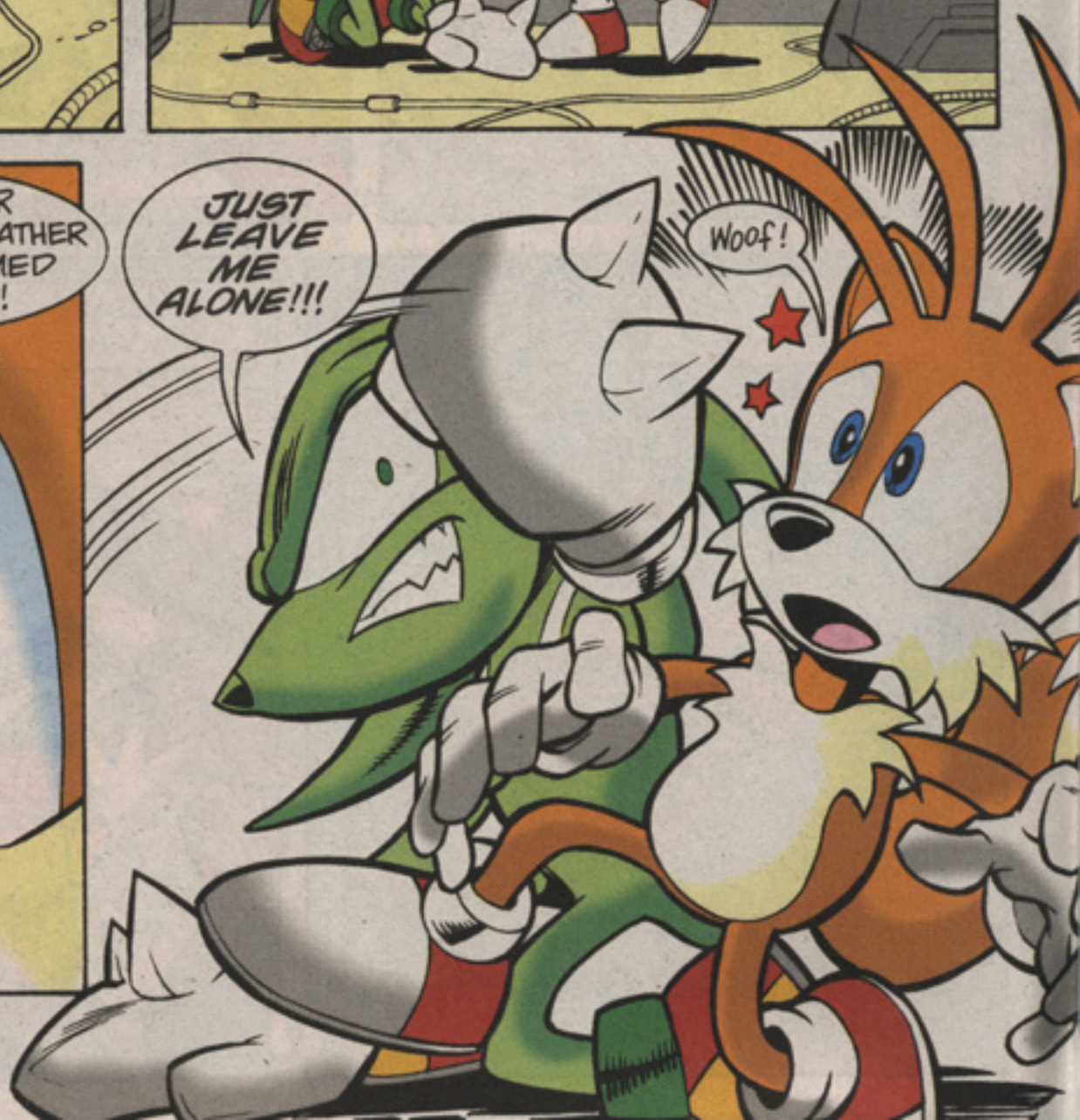
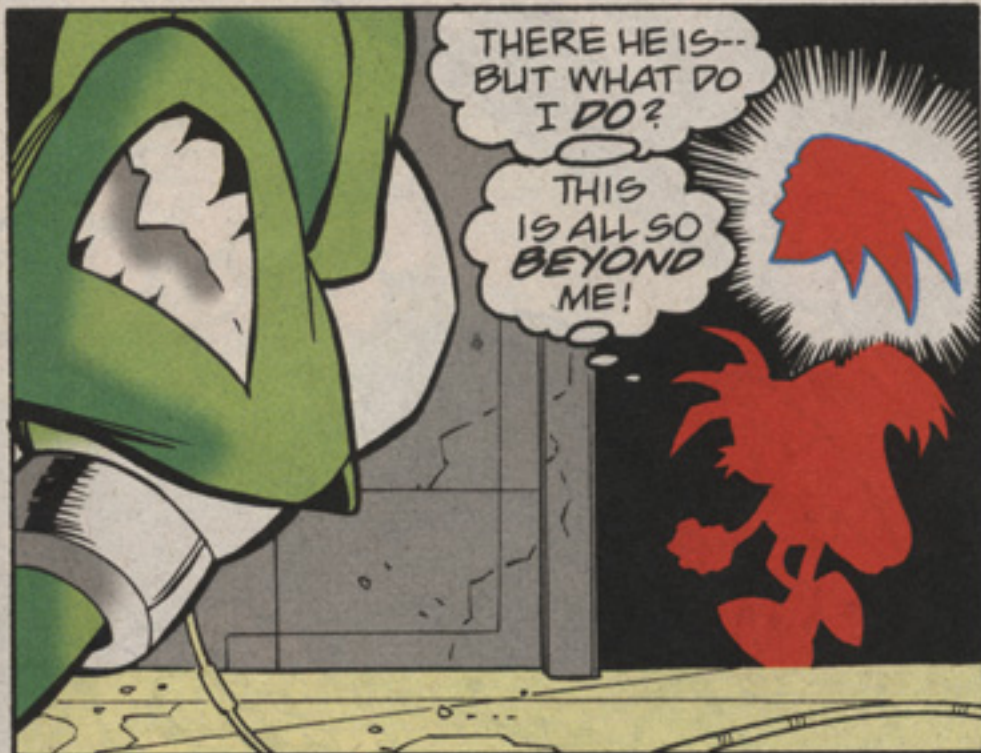
WORRY
NOT FOR HIM--
BUT RATHER
YOURSELF!

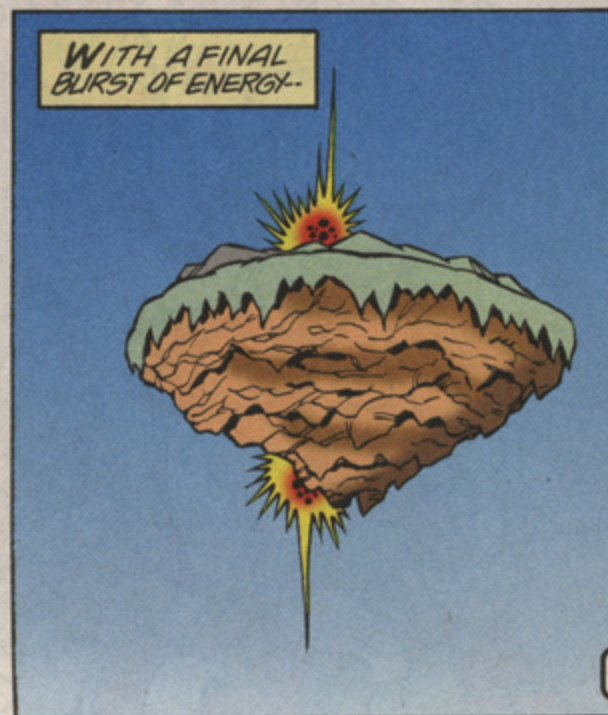
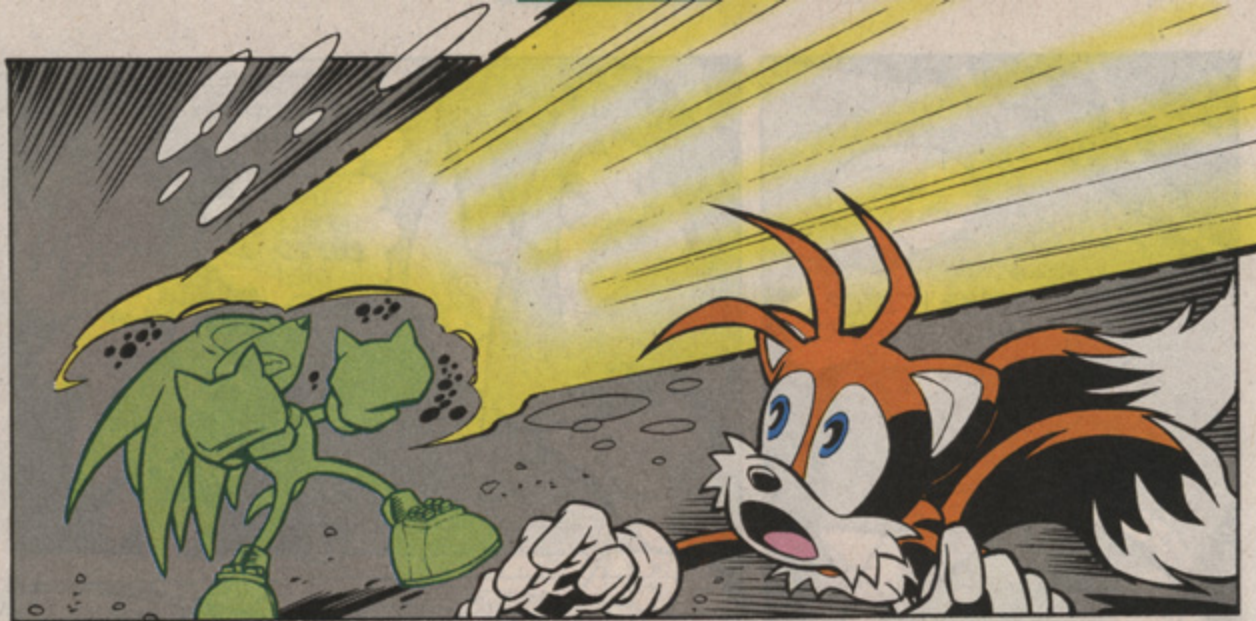
KEEP
YOUR EYES
SHIELDED
LEST YOU GO
BLIND!

JUST LIKE THAT--
IT'S OVER!!

KNUCKLES--
WHERE'D HE
GO?!!!







BY AGGAMEMMON'S BELLS,
WHO DARES DISRUPT THE
ENCHANTMENT?

SURELY
YOU HAVEN'T
FORGOTTEN
YOUR FELLOW
TRAVELER?

HARDLY!

AND I
SEE YOU
HAVE MY
NEPHEW
IN TOW!

OBVIOUSLY THE VICTIM OF
FOUL VILLAINY SUFFERED
WHILE IN YOUR CARE!

I'LL SEE TO
HIM NOW!

SOME REST, MIXED WITH A
FEW POTIONS, AND HE'LL BE
SOARING ONCE AGAIN!

TIME IS
OF THE ESSENCE,
MERLIN PROWER!

THE CHOSEN
ONE IS NEEDED--

--AND YOU'RE
THE *ONLY* ONE
WHO CAN CALL
HIM FORTH!

AND WHAT
MAKES YOU
THINK I WILL,
ATHAIR?

HE'S BUT A
MERE LAD!

AND HIS
DESTINY ISN'T
TO *SAVE* THE
ECHIDNAS
FROM THEM-
SELVES!!

AGREED!
THAT TASK WAS
ASSIGNED TO
KNUCKLES!

BUT UNFORESEEN
EVENTS HAVE
ALTERED THE LIFE
EQUATION--



--AND NOW ONLY YOUR **YOUNGEST** NEPHEW
MAY BE ALL THAT STANDS BETWEEN
DELIVERANCE OR **ANNIHILATION!**



HOW CAN ONE YOUNG FOX ACHIEVE THAT
WHICH THE **ANCIENT WALKERS** CANNOT?

THE
VERY CONCEPT
STAGGERS THE
IMAGINATION!



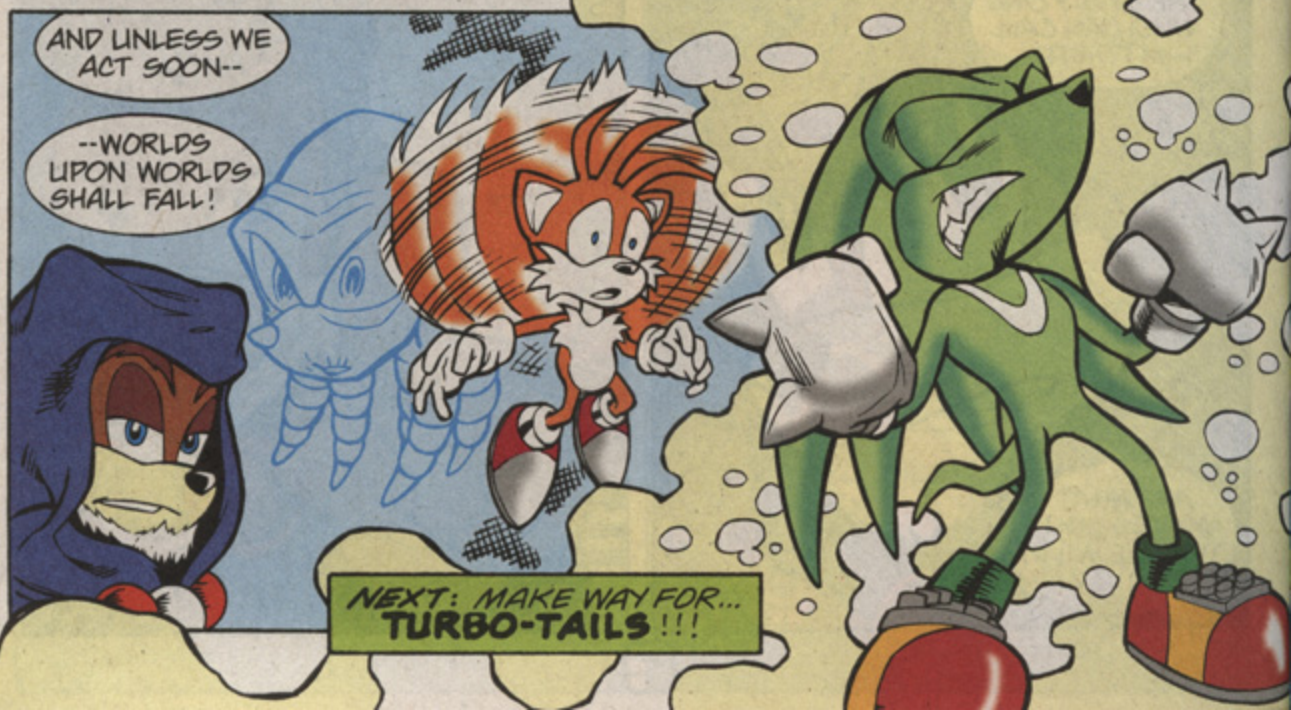
BECAUSE THEY
ARE **DYING**--

--AND I
AM **INCAPABLE**
WITHOUT HIM!



AND UNLESS WE
ACT SOON--

--WORLDS
UPON WORLDS
SHALL FALL!



**NEXT: MAKE WAY FOR...
TURBO-TAILS !!!**

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THIS JUST IN!

J.F. GABRIE
EDITOR

Now that you've enjoyed this issue, it's time to look ahead to what's coming next. Hard as it is to believe, we're about to complete our eighth year of publishing Sonic's adventures, and the best is yet to come. Even though we're only five (can you believe it!?) five issues away from our landmark 100th issue, that doesn't mean we don't plan to make each issue leading up to and beyond it special in its own way.

Aside from the surprises in the regular Sonic and Knuckles stories that await you, there's also the SONIC ADVENTURE 2 tie-in scheduled for SONIC #98, as well as... well, that would be telling. Needless to say, we're so excited ourselves that we can't wait to hear what you have to say.

I'd like to take this time to hand over the 'Sonic-Grams' reign to Ken Penders. Since he's been very proactive communicating with a number of fans online and at conventions, I felt Ken should take over the letters page and interact with you here as well. I'm still editing Sonic, so I'll pop in with an editorial from time to time. And though we didn't have the room to put in an Off Panel for this issue, it will return next month.

Catch you on the flip side!

Take it away, Ken...

Thank you, Justin. I want you to know you can reach me not only at Sonic@archiecomics.com, but also at kenpenders@kenpenders.com.

Next month, I'll touch upon the fan art and other matters as well. In the meantime, how about we check out the coming attractions and dig into the mail, shall we?

Send letters to:
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#95**

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MAMARONECK, NY
10543-0419

E - M A I L :
jfreddyg@archiecomics.com
W E B S I T E :
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Note: Due to the overwhelming amount of e-mail and snail mail, it is impossible for us to reply personally to each and every message. However, your opinions are important to us and each message will be read. Also, due to space limitations, some correspondence may be edited.
Thanks for understanding!

COMING ATTRACTIONS



#96

Next issue: When one of Robotnik's Shadow-Bots finds its way to Knothole kingdom, can the evil genius and his invading horde of Overlanders be far behind? What does this mean for our heroic hedgehog and his friends? Find out in "The Messenger," written by Karl Bollers, penciled by Nelson Ribeiro, and inked by Pam Eklund and Jim Amash! And be sure not to miss an all-new KNUCKLES tale, written and inked by Ken Penders with pencils by Ron Lim. SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #96 is on sale in April of 2001!

Hiya, kids! Here's a sampling of your recent Sonic-Grams:

Dear Sonic-Grams,

I just read issue #85, and it was great. I can't wait until issue #86 comes out. Anyway, I have a few questions: 1) How old is Julie-Su? 2) How old is Mina? 3) Did Lupé die? 4) Who, or what, is Mercia?

Brianna McAuley, CANADA

Sorry to make you wait between issues, Brianna! Hope it was worth it. Now, for your questions: 1-2) Julie-Su and Mina are both fifteen years old. 3) Lupé didn't die, but she was roboticized by Sonic's Uncle Chuck (who was under Robotnik's control at the time). 4) Mercia is a kingdom located in Mobius' northern hemisphere, and it's currently Amy Rose's home.

Dear Knuckles,

Sorry to hear about what happened to Echidnaopolis. Hey, it will all work out in the end. You've got to believe in yourself and your loved ones. You and your friends have survived overwhelming odds so far. This time, even though it seems like you're alone, they are present in spirit. I know in my heart, from reading your adventures, that you are stronger than you think. I'm sure fellow fans will agree. First, you've got to figure out what happened and then kick some major can once you do. All of your readers are behind you all the way! I know you are busy, but do you have time to answer a few questions? 1) Where did you first meet Julie-Su? 2) What's your most powerful move? 3) Are you and Sally still best friends? Well, that's all and I wish you luck in the future. Tell Julie-Su I said, "Hi!" :) :)
Tabitha Verduzco, (age 19), Freeport, PA

Knuckles appreciates your encouragement, Tabitha. Even though his loved ones are gone, it appears our able echidna still has many fans who are rooting for him. To answer your inquiries:

- 1) Knuckles and Julie-Su first met in KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #5, when Julie-Su was still a member of Enerjak's Dark Legion.**
- 2) Knuckles has many powerful moves... some of which you'll be seeing in upcoming issues.**
- 3) Knuckles and Sally were never really best friends, so much as they were "special" friends.**

Dear Sonic-Grams,

My name is Marion. I'm eleven years old, and I'm in the fifth grade. My favorite comic books are SONIC and KNUCKLES, and they are a fun read for kids my age. They inspire me to do more reading. Thanks for reading this letter.
Marion Williams, Suisun, CA

Thanks for writing in, Marion!

Dear Sonic-Grams,

I have a couple of questions for you: 1) In the SONIC 3 and SONIC & KNUCKLES video games, when I get the chaos emeralds, Sonic turns into Super Sonic and Knuckles transforms into Super Knuckles. When they get the emeralds in the comic, Sonic becomes Super Sonic, but Knuckles becomes Hyper Knuckles instead. Why?

2) I know I missed my chance to become a freedom fighter many, many, years ago...but is it too late to become one now?

Matt Helmuth, (age 14), Goshen, IN

1) Just one of the many differences between the comic book continuity and the game continuity, Matt! 2) It's never too late to join the ranks—consider yourself an official freedom fighter.

Dear Sonic-Grams,

What's up? I love SEGA Dreamcast. I play it almost every day! I have some questions:

1) Does Sonic love Amy?

2) Why is Tails younger than Amy all of a sudden?

3) Was Tikal Knuckles' sister?

4) Who is Sonic's best friend?

That's all, and thanks!

Amanda Jones, (age 9), Lakewood, CO

1) Sonic loves Amy the way an older brother loves a younger sister, Amanda. 2) Amy aged several years after making a wish upon the Ring of Acorns. 3) Tikal and Knuckles aren't brother and sister. She lived many centuries before he was born. 4) Sonic's best friend is, of course, Tails...

Dear Sonic-Grams,

I've got some questions: 1) What happened to Knuckles' family? 2) What happened to Julie-Su? 3) On the cover of SONIC #88, Uncle Chuck has trapped Sonic in the roboticizer. Will he be roboticized? By the way, that cover was awesome!

Sean Gelish, (age 11), Plainview, NY

1) Knuckles' family, and all of Echidnaopolis, were shunted into another zone reality due to the Dark Legion, Sean. 2) As if that weren't enough to upset a growing echidna, the Dark Legion kidnapped Julie-Su to boot! 3) By now you know that Sonic is still himself.

Dear Sonic-Grams,

I'm a new fan and intend to be writing to you a lot. SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #85 was the first issue I ever read, and I can't wait to read issue #86. But there's one little problem. I'd like to read the very first issue, to find out how it all began. Please send me an order form for issue #1. Thank you very much.

Soriah D. Chavel, Brooklyn, NY

Early back-issues can be pricey, Soriah, but we suggest taking a look at our subscriptions' page. You'll find our SONIC & KNUCKLES COLLECTOR SETS, hardcovers that contain twelve consecutive issues of the regular comic. As for getting a copy of SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #1, we suggest "SONIC FIRSTS," which collects the first appearances of Sonic, Tails and Knuckles.

Thanks to everyone who wrote in this time around (you know who you are). See ya next month when we review our latest batch of mail.

KEEP ON JUICIN'!

Cover illustration by Patrick Spaziente and Harvey Mercadoocasio with Colors and separations by Josh D. Ray. Edit page layout & design by Joe Pep